

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Status of Legislation

With this issue of the INFORMATION LETTER there is inaugurated a weekly report on the status of legislation in Congress of concern to canners. Detailed analysis of bills and news accounts of action will be reported in separate articles.

Trade Agreements Act—House Ways and Means Committee opened hearings Jan. 17 on Cooper bill, H. R. 1, embodying Administration program.

Minimum wage—A number of bills proposing to increase the statutory minimum wage have been introduced. No Administration bill introduced. No hearings scheduled.

Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii—House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee opened hearings Jan. 25 (see story, page 20).

Antitrust—Several bills have been introduced (see story, page 20). No hearings scheduled.

FDA codification—No bills introduced.

FDA export standards—No bills introduced.

FDA intentional additives—No bills introduced.

OTHER LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

Alaska fishing nets—Bills relating to the regulation of nets in Alaska waters: H. R. 249, by Del. Bartlett (Alaska), to the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee; S. 456, by Sen. Magnuson (Wash.); to the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Alaska salmon traps—A bill to provide for the gradual elimination of salmon traps in the waters of Alaska: H. R. 242, by Del. Bartlett (Alaska); to the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Shrimp tariff—Bills to provide for an ad valorem duty on the importation of shrimp: H. R. 205, by Rep. Thompson (La.); H. R. 265, by Rep. Colmer (Miss.); H. R. 2449, by Rep. Willis (La.); to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Tuna tariff—A bill to impose certain duties on the importation of tuna fish: H. R. 674, by Rep. King (Calif.); to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Corn Borer Threat to Midwest

Serious infestation of European corn borers is indicated this year if spring weather is favorable for this insect's development, according to the *Cooperative Economic Insect Report* issued by the Agricultural Research Service of USDA.

Biggest problem areas are likely to occur in central Iowa, northeastern Nebraska, southeastern South Dakota, and central Illinois. Corn borer populations in these areas last fall were high.

The *Cooperative Economic Insect Report* was issued by USDA January 28.

USDA Regulates Labeling on Pesticide Chemicals

Labeling of pesticides is to be stringently regulated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under new regulations applicable to pesticide manufacturers and distributors.

Regulations governing certification by USDA of the usefulness of pesticide chemicals, as authorized under

(Please turn to page 20)

Convention Room Directory

At the 1955 Convention only one official hotel room directory will be published, and will be made available to Convention delegates on their arrival. In past years there have been inserts for the Directory or preliminary, tentative issues.

The Directory, now in preparation, will show room numbers only for those who have preregistered. For all others, and for all food brokers, it will show the hotel only.

Canners will be able, however, to locate their brokers' rooms because of a special arrangement the National Food Brokers Association has made with the hotels, by which the latter will maintain double listings at the switchboard—one for the firm and one for the individual. Broker principals have been notified of this procedure and informed that they can obtain a broker's individual room number immediately at the hotel by asking for name or firm name.

This arrangement is considered more serviceable to broker principals than past situations when there was delay in obtaining a complete and official Convention Directory.

QMC Studies Sterilization of Foods by Radiation

The Army Quartermaster Corps has been granted authority by the Atomic Energy Commission to utilize spent reactor fuel assemblies as sources of radiation in food sterilization research.

The QMC and the Chemical Corps are conducting research for the armed forces at Dugway Proving Ground, near Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Department of Defense's announcement stated, in part:

"A fuel assembly is highly radioactive upon emerging from the nuclear reactor. Its radioactivity must subside—an interval known as the 'cooling' period—before the cache of fissionable material can be removed. Under the arrangement announced today [January 20], the Dugway Proving Ground will have custody of certain of the radioactive fuel assemblies during the 'cooling' period and will utilize their hitherto lost radioactivity—specifically, the gamma ra-

diation—in research on food sterilization.

"When the radioactivity of the fuel assemblies has diminished, they will be returned to the Atomic Energy Commission.

"Besides the research project at Dugway Proving Ground, a score of universities and industrial firms, under contract with the Quartermaster Corps, are engaged in research on the radiation sterilization of foods for the armed forces. The Army Medical Service Corps is aiding in this research. Close cooperation is maintained with other government agencies, including the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Agriculture.

"All aspects of the radiation sterilization of foods are being studied under the program, a five-year project of the Quartermaster Corps, to determine the most effective and economically suitable method of preserving foods by irradiation."

Schedule of Principal Events of the 1955 Convention

(Subject to Revision and Addition)

Tuesday, February 15

- 10 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Scientific Research Committee, Room 12, Conrad Hilton

Wednesday, February 16

- 9 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Tenderometer Committee, Room 5, Conrad Hilton
 10 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Scientific Research Committee, Room 12, Conrad Hilton
 2 p.m.—Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee to N.C.A. Labeling Committee, Room 5, Conrad Hilton
 3 p.m.—Meeting and Dinner, N.C.A. Home Economics Committee, Room 13, Conrad Hilton
 3 p.m.—Meeting of Canning Industry Research, Inc., Room 19, Conrad Hilton
 8 p.m.—Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee to N.C.A. Labeling Committee, Room 5, Conrad Hilton

Thursday, February 17

- 9 a.m.—Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee to N.C.A. Labeling Committee, Room 3, Conrad Hilton
 9 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Processing Subcommittee on Foods in Metal Containers, Room 20, Conrad Hilton
 9:30 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Budget Committee, Room 1, Conrad Hilton
 12:30 p.m.—Luncheon Meeting of N.C.A. Administrative Council, Room 2, Conrad Hilton
 2 p.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Convention Committee, Room 12, Conrad Hilton
 3:30 p.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Labeling Committee, Room 3, Conrad Hilton
 7 p.m.—Dinner, N.C.A. Labeling Committee, Room 4, Conrad Hilton

Friday, February 18

- 9:30 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Board of Directors, West Ballroom, Conrad Hilton
 12 m.—Meeting of C.M.&S.A. Board of Directors, French Room, Blackstone
 12:30 p.m.—Luncheon, N.C.A. Board of Directors, South Ballroom, Conrad Hilton
 2 p.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Board of Directors, Waldorf Room (North Ballroom), Conrad Hilton
 3:30 p.m.—Meeting of The Forty Niners Board of Directors, Hubbard Room, Sheraton-Blackstone
 4:30 p.m.—Annual Meeting of The Forty Niners, Hubbard Room, Sheraton-Blackstone
 5:15 p.m.—Presentation of The Forty Niners Second Annual Service Award, Hubbard Room, Sheraton-Blackstone
 6 p.m.—Reception, The Forty Niners, Crystal Ballroom, Sheraton-Blackstone
 6 p.m.—Dinner Meeting of N.C.A. Statistics Committee, Room 8, Conrad Hilton
 7 p.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Resolutions Committee, Room 5, Conrad Hilton
 7:30 p.m.—Dinner, C.M.&S.A. Past Presidents, English Room, Conrad Hilton

Saturday, February 19

- 9 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Nominating Committee, Astoria Room (North Assembly), Conrad Hilton
 9:30 a.m. (all day)—Business Meeting of N.F.B.A., Grand Ballroom, Palmer House
 10 a.m.—General Session of N.C.A., Williford Ballroom, Conrad Hilton
 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.—Canning Machinery and Supplies Exhibit, Exhibit Halls, Conrad Hilton
 12:30 p.m.—Luncheon Meeting of N.C.A. Claims Committee, Room 8, Conrad Hilton
 1:30 p.m.—N.C.A. Marketing Session, South Ballroom, Conrad Hilton
 2 p.m.—N.C.A. Conference on Canning Procedures and Products, Upper Tower, Conrad Hilton

- 2 p.m.—N.C.A. Conference on Procurement of Raw Products, Waldorf Room (North Ballroom), Conrad Hilton

- 4 p.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Fishery Products Committee, Room 3, Conrad Hilton

- 4:30 p.m.—Meeting of Prune Juice Committee, Room 8, Conrad Hilton

- 6 p.m.—Old Guard Society Cocktail Party and Buffet Supper, French Room and Crystal Ballroom, Blackstone

- 7 p.m.—Dinner, N.C.A. Fishery Products Committee, Room 4, Conrad Hilton

- 8 p.m.—Smoker, N.C.A. Research Laboratory, Astoria Room (North Assembly), Conrad Hilton

Sunday, February 20

- 8:30 a.m.—Breakfast Meeting of N.C.A. Legislative Committee, Room 19, Conrad Hilton

- 9 a.m.—Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee to N.C.A. Raw Products Committee, Room 18, Conrad Hilton

- 10:30 a.m.—Annual Meeting of C.M.&S.A., West Ballroom, Conrad Hilton

- 1-5:30 p.m.—Canning Machinery and Supplies Exhibit, Exhibit Halls, Conrad Hilton

- 1:30 p.m.—N.C.A. Conference on Agricultural Management Problems, Waldorf Room (North Ballroom) Conrad Hilton

- 2 p.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Consumer and Trade Relations Committee, Room 8, Conrad Hilton

- 2 p.m.—N.C.A. Fishery Products Conference, Astoria Room (North Assembly), Conrad Hilton

- 2:30 p.m.—N.C.A. Conference on Factors Influencing the Shelf Life of Canned Foods, Upper Tower, Conrad Hilton

- 6 p.m.—State Secretaries Reception and Dinner, Room 1, Conrad Hilton

- 6:30 p.m.—Dinner, N.C.A. Raw Products Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, Room 3, Conrad Hilton

Monday, February 21

- 9 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Procurement Committee, Room 19, Conrad Hilton

- 9 a.m.—N.C.A. Conference on Pesticide Tolerances, Waldorf Room (North Ballroom), Conrad Hilton

- 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.—Canning Machinery and Supplies Exhibit, Exhibit Halls, Conrad Hilton

- 1:30 p.m.—Meeting of National Kraut Packers Association, Room 18, Conrad Hilton

- 2 p.m.—Joint N.C.A.-C.M.&S.A. Technical Conference, South Ballroom, Conrad Hilton

- 2 p.m.—Meeting of The Tomato Council, Inc., Board of Directors, Room 8, Conrad Hilton

- 3:30 p.m.—Business Meeting of The Tomato Council, Inc., West Ballroom, Conrad Hilton

- 3:30 p.m.—Ladies Day—Fashion Show and Tea, sponsored by C.M.&S.A., Wedgewood Room, Marshall Field department store

- 7 p.m.—Young Guard Society Banquet, Terrace Casino, Morrison

Tuesday, February 22

- 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.—Canning Machinery and Supplies Exhibit, Exhibit Halls, Conrad Hilton

- 12:15 p.m.—Meeting of National Meat Canners Association, Crystal Ballroom, Blackstone

- 7:30 p.m.—C.M.&S.A. Dinner Dance, Ballroom, Sheraton

Wednesday, February 23

- 9:30 a.m.—Meeting of N.C.A. Processing Committee on Foods in Metal Containers, Room 20, Conrad Hilton

- 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Canning Machinery and Supplies Exhibit, Exhibit Halls, Conrad Hilton

Registration for Admission to Convention Exhibit

The Canning Machinery and Supplies Association is mailing to canners, on request, copies of its new registration card and badge of admission to the exhibit of canning machinery and supplies at the forthcoming Convention.

The new cards are designed to eliminate waiting in line for registration at the Canners Show (see INFORMATION LETTER of January 22, page 11).

Canners planning to attend the 1955 Canners Show and firms needing a quantity of badges for employees are invited to write immediately to the C.M.S.A., 4630 Montgomery Ave., Suite 2, Washington 14, D. C. No mailings will be made after February 9.

Shipments of Glass Containers

Shipments of wide-mouth glass containers for food during 1954 exceeded 1953 shipments by about 5 percent, according to a summary of monthly reports issued by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

On the other hand, shipments of narrow-neck glass containers for food declined about 5 percent below total shipments for the previous year.

	Jan.-Dec. 1953	1954
	(thousands of gross)	
Wide-mouth food (including fruit jars and jelly glasses).....	35,253	37,193
Narrow-neck food.....	28,282	26,940

Pack of Canned Meat

The quantity of meat canned and meat products processed under federal inspection during the month of December has been reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, at 163,612 thousand pounds, including quantities for defense.

Canned Meat and Meat Products Processed under Federal Inspection
December, 1954

	3 Lbs. or over	Under 3 Lbs.	Total
	(in thousands of pounds)		
Luncheon meat.....	15,917	14,370	30,287
Canned hams.....	22,609	399	23,008
Corned beef hash.....	118	5,913	6,031
Chili con carne.....	671	11,280	11,921
Vienna sausage.....	158	4,118	4,277
Frankfurters and wieners in brine.....	16	456	472
Deviled ham.....		669	669
Other potted and deviled meat products.....	47	5,035	5,082
Tamales.....	161	2,285	2,446
Sliced, dried beef.....	9	403	411
Liver products.....		212	212
Meat stew.....	53	6,637	6,690
Spaghetti meat products.....	119	2,446	2,565
Tongue (not pickled).....	34	143	179
Vinegar pickled products.....	915	1,099	2,005
Bulk sausage.....		955	955
Hamburger.....	69	1,770	1,838
Soups.....	1,255	42,763	44,017
Sausage in oil.....	102	218	320
Tripe.....		619	619
Brains.....		369	369
Bacon.....	26	65	90
All other products 20% or more meat.....	271	6,966	7,238
All other products less than 20% meat (except soup).....	318	9,120	9,439
Total all products.....	42,869	118,262	161,131

Columns do not add to totals shown in all cases since rounded figures are used. Amounts packed for defense are not included in these items. Total production, including quantities for defense agencies, was 163,612 thousand pounds.

Pesticide Carry-over in 1954

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has reported that carry-over stocks of 26 major pesticidal chemicals in the hands of manufacturers on September 30 totaled 134,600,000 pounds, a drop of 10 percent from the 149,500,000 pounds in inventory on the same date a year earlier.

Of the reported 1954 stocks, a total of 50,100,000 pounds, or 37 percent, was in the form of pesticidal dilutions or "formulations," mostly ready-to-use. In 1953, 47,600,000 pounds, or 32 percent of the September 30 carry-over, represented formulations.

In making the report, USDA said that over-all stocks of pesticidal materials could be considered "normal," but that inventories of some individual chemicals varied somewhat, both up and down, from normal.

The report, based on preliminary results of an industry survey undertaken in cooperation with the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, is believed to represent between 90 and 95 percent of actual inventories in the United States as of September 30. A total of 141 manufacturers, including most of the major producers, provided information.

Comparative figures are not available, but USDA said that 1952 probably was the high point for pesticidal carry-overs in recent years. Following the outbreak of war in Korea, pesticide manufacturers increased their production sharply. Some of this stepped-up production reflected the need to keep pace with expanded agricultural output in the United States, but a good part of it was aimed at an enlarged export market that never quite materialized. Exchange problems, dollar shortages among importing nations, and some increase in foreign manufacturing facilities all combined to hold exports to modest levels. The drop in inventories for September, 1954, is considered a healthy adjustment from the surplus situation of two years earlier.

Stocks of Canned Foods on Jan. 1 and Season Shipments

Reports on canners' stocks and shipments of canned apples, applesauce, RSP cherries, asparagus, green and wax beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, tomato juice, catsup, and chili sauce

have been issued by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, and detailed reports covering January 1 stocks have been mailed to all canners packing these items.

	Carry-over month	Case basis	Total Supply		Canner Stocks Jan. 1		Season Shipments to Jan. 1	
			1953	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
			(Thousands of cases)					
Apples.....	Aug.	6/10 actual	2,898	4,106	1,323	2,614	1,576	1,492
Applesauce.....	Aug.	actual	10,253	13,720	4,877	8,319	5,378	5,401
RSP cherries.....	July	actual	3,062	3,253	1,547	1,438	2,415	1,815
Asparagus.....	March	actual	5,428	6,090	n.a.	1,314	n.a.	4,667
Beans, green and wax.....	July	actual	24,229	31,043	9,525	16,042	14,703	15,000
Corn.....	Aug.	actual	38,562	41,906	23,702	26,086	14,860	15,820
Peas.....	June	actual	34,786	31,488	17,051	13,892	17,735	17,867
Tomatoes.....	July	actual	25,800	25,178	n.a.	10,046	n.a.	15,133
Tomato juice.....	July	actual	38,967	33,540	n.a.	18,733	n.a.	14,807
Catsup.....	July	actual	28,577	26,616	n.a.	12,729	n.a.	13,887
Chili sauce.....	July	actual	3,425	2,863	n.a.	1,740	n.a.	1,125

n.a.—Not available.

C&TR Radio Release

The suitability of various types of canned foods for lunches children carry to school was stressed in a special radio release in the "Timely Talks" series going to 179 broadcasters with an estimated listening audience of 11 million. The release went out January 19 to women's programs in 47 states as part of the continuing N.C.A. Consumer and Trade Relations program.

Family Circle Magazine

Canned foods are featured in 14 pages of the February issue of *Family Circle* magazine, in a food section which Grace White, food editor, titles "Food Fiesta."

The six articles making up the section are attractively illustrated with colored photographs and feature 43 recipes and 53 uses of 34 different canned foods. The features include Dinner in a Dish, Meat Balls—Quick and Good, Be a Chafing-Dish Artist, Tray Suppers Are Fun, Pie-Cake Fancies, Cherry-Bright Desserts.

Four million people who shop in 14 grocery chains all over the country buy *Family Circle* every month, and in this special section are shown the values canned foods offer them in planning sprightly menus, not just the convenience, but the attractive appearance; not just the economy, but the variety; not just the time saved, but the glamorous end result, whether it's a casserole dish, a chafing-dish specialty or an individual tray supper.

Family Circle receives distribution through the following organizations: Albers Super Markets, American Stores-Acme Markets, H. C. Bohack, Dixie-Home Stores, First National Stores, Grand Union, H. E. B. Food Stores, H. G. Hill Stores, Jewel Food Stores, Kroger Stores, Red Owl Stores, Safeway, Weingarten's, Winn & Lovett (Piggly Wiggly Stores and several other divisions). The Kroger edition also carries a two-page full-color feature with five recipes on canned corn.

As part of the continuing Consumer and Trade Relations program, the N.C.A. is urging all of these aggressive retail organizations to display and promote canned foods throughout the entire month of February.

The N.C.A. mailed copies of the *Family Circle* reprint to all its members this week, to enable them to plan their own individual merchandising efforts as a tie-in with the "Food Fiesta" feature. Copies were also provided to the members of the National Food Brokers Association.

Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii

The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on January 25 began hearings on legislation providing statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. Following defeat of a motion to refer study of the legislation to subcommittee, it was announced that hearings on statehood would be resumed.

Antitrust Penalties

Senator Daniel (Tex.) on January 24 introduced a bill, S. 670, to increase the maximum penalty for violation of the Sherman Act from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Similar legislation has been introduced in recent sessions of Congress. In the 83d Congress the bill was approved by the House but failed to receive approval of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Durum Wheat Acreage

The Senate on January 26 passed and sent to the House a bill, S. 145, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the farm marketing quotas and acreage allotments for the 1955 crop of class II durum wheat. The legislation is designed to achieve a small increase in the production of durum wheat for one year.

Labeling of Pesticides

(Continued from page 17)

the so-called Miller Act, were issued this week. Following is a portion of USDA's announcement of the new regulation:

"Public Law 518, passed in July, 1954, amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. To protect the public health, it requires the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (Food and Drug Administration) to establish tolerances with respect to the amounts of pesticide chemicals likely to be left in or on harvested food crops, or to exempt pesticides from the requirement that residue tolerances be established.

"The Department of Agriculture has two legal functions in enforcing this law. First, through the Plant Pest Control Branch of the Agricultural Research Service, USDA will determine for the Food and Drug Administration whether or not an insecticide or other economic poison is useful for the purpose for which a residue tolerance or exemption is sought. Second, the Department will give FDA its opinion concerning the residues likely to result from the proposed use of the pesticide.

"Public Law 518 requires that registrants of pesticide chemicals obtain residue tolerances or exemptions for such chemicals by:

"(1) Filing with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare a petition proposing the tolerance or exemption, together with supporting data to establish safe residue levels.

"(2) Filing with the Secretary of Agriculture a copy of this petition and a request to certify to DHEW that the pesticide chemical is useful for its intended purpose."

The regulations issued by USDA this week govern the certification procedures to be followed in this second step. The regulation was published in the *Federal Register* of January 27 and is to become effective 30 days after the date of publication.

The regulations indicate that label recommendations will include the specific crops for which the pesticide has been certified. Cannerymen and fieldmen are cautioned to follow very carefully the directions on the labels of pesticides used on canning crops, and it is suggested that fieldmen should check to make certain that their growers likewise are following these specific label directions.

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